GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2123
ANSWERED ON:05.08.2003
NHRC GUIDELINES ON SEXUAL HARASSMENT
PRABHA RAU

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) recently conducted a survey which revealed that the guidelines of the Supreme Court to prevent sexual harassment in the Government Departments/private companies are not being enforced in many States strictly;

(b) if so, the details of the findings of the NHRC about the non-enforcement of the guidelines in the States, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government have held any discussions with the State Governments with regard to the strict enforcement of the Supreme Court guidelines; and

(d) if not, the manner in which the Government propose to impress upon the State Governments for the strict compliance of the guidelines?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D.SWAMI)

(a) & (b): At the instance of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), the Action Aid India, a Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO), is conducting a survey on the implementation of the guidelines issued by the Supreme Court regarding prevention of sexual harassment in the Government Departments/private companies etc. The survey report has not yet been finalised.

(c) & (d): The Government has requested all Central Ministries/Departments/State Governments/Union Territory Administrations/Universities/Institution/Central Board of Secordary Education/All India Council of Technical Education to constitute complaints committees to ensure implementation of the guidelines of the Supreme Court.

A Central Committee headed by Secretary, Department of Women & Child Development consisting of representatives of State Governments has been constituted to ensure that the complaints committees are constituted and guidelines are implemented by all concerned.

National Commission for Women has instituted a series of interactive meetings with Public Sector Undertakings/Banks/Universities/Educational Institutions/Hotels/Media etc. To assess the extent of implementation of the guidelines.